

I Claim:

1. A releasable locking mechanism for a rotatable boat seat comprising:

a vertical hollow rigid tubular support post having a series of circumferentially-spaced vertical grooves and ridges on its outer surface;

5 a yoke having a horizontal plate for attachment to the underside of a boat seat and a generally centrally located annular section extending below said plate, said section having a generally smooth external surface;

a hollow tubular insert telescoped within said tubular support post at the upper end of said post, said insert having a generally smooth interior annular surface;

10 said yoke annular section telescoped within said insert interior annular surface;

said insert having an extension at its upper end overhanging the top end of said support post and extending at least part way down the exterior of said support post, the interior surface of said overhang having a series of circumferentially spaced vertically disposed ridges and grooves engaging the corresponding grooves and ridges on said support post for locking said insert from rotation with respect to said support post, and the exterior surface of said overhang having a series of vertically disposed circumferentially spaced ridges and grooves;

15 a locking plate mounted in said yoke to move radially with respect to said yoke annular extension, said locking plate having a series of vertically disposed spaced-apart ridges and grooves on an inner side for releasably engaging the corresponding ridges and grooves on the outer surface of said insert overhang; and

20 an elongated lever arm pivotally attached to said yoke and extending outward therefrom, said elongated arm coupled to said locking plate for selectively moving said locking plate radially out of engagement with said insert overhang for allowing said yoke to be rotatably moved with respect to said support post.

25 2. A releasable locking mechanism for a rotatable boat seat as described in claim 1, including:

a spring member coupled to the outer side of said locking plate for applying a force on said locking plate so that its grooves and ridges engage the corresponding ridges and grooves on said insert overhang for rotatably locking said yoke to said support post.

30 3. A releasable locking mechanism for a rotatable boat seat as described in claim 2 wherein said lever arm is operable to apply a force to said locking plate in opposition to said spring to disengage said locking plate ridges and grooves from said insert ridges and grooves.

4. A releasable locking mechanism for a boat seat as described in claim 3 wherein said elongated lever arm has a handle portion at about its outer end and a leg at about its inner end,

said leg coupled to said locking plate to apply a force in opposition to said spring member to disengage said locking plate from said insert for rotatably releasing said yoke from said support post when said handle is moved.

- 5        5. A releasable locking mechanism for a boat seat as described in claim 2 wherein said spring member compresses a coiled spring, said spring compressed between a stop plate on said yoke and the back side of said locking plate.

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